

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical disk recording and reproducing apparatus operates in a read mode for controlling a laser driver to maintain a laser power at a target read level so as to read a signal from an optical disk, and operates in a write mode for controlling the laser driver to alternate the laser power between a target write level and a target bottom level comparative with the target read level so as to write a signal into the optical disk. In the write mode, a value obtained by sampling and holding the bottom level is set as the target value of a bottom level, and a bottom level control signal is outputted according to a difference between this target value and the detected value of the bottom level. Thus, the laser power control can be performed without any errors being generated even if an offset has occurred in the detected bottom power. Thus, the bottom laser power can be maintained constant.